



Rashi Kesarwani  
Councilmember, District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 2, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Author) and Mayor Adena Ishii (Co-Sponsor) and Councilmembers Shoshana O’Keefe and Cecilia Lunaparra (Co-Sponsors)

Subject: Urban Compassion Project: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund for Grant of Such Funds

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per Councilmember including a \$1,000 donation from Councilmembers Kesarwani and O’Keefe, \$1,000 from Mayor Ishii, and \$800 from Councilmember Lunaparra to the Urban Compassion Project<sup>1</sup> with funds relinquished to the City’s General Fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budget of Councilmembers Kesarwani, O’Keefe, and Lunaparra and Mayor Ishii and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

**BACKGROUND**

The Urban Compassion Project is a non-profit entity that supports communities in need by providing mutual aid, linking homeless individuals to critical services and clearing illegally dumped waste and debris on impacted streets as a volunteer service. These efforts are provided to cities and communities at no cost. The money relinquished from Council Office budgets will be a donation to recognize the value of this organization’s work and support its mission with the hopes of fostering a continued partnership with the City of Berkeley. On November 8, 2025 the Urban Compassion Project hosted a cleanup event at Eighth and Harrison Street, which cleared 24,000 pounds of debris with the help of 60 volunteers as well as homeless individuals.

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<sup>1</sup> The Urban Compassion Project (UCP) supports vulnerable communities in need by clearing illegally dumped waste, providing mutual aid and clearing tons of dumped trash from city streets. See: <https://urbancompassionproject.org/>

Despite significant City effort to provide services, shelter, motel rooms, and save RV parking, the Harrison Corridor has continued to experience the detrimental impacts of homelessness for a number of years. As is often the case, homeless encampments become sites for illegal dumping and a build-up of trash and debris due to a lack of sanitation resources. Despite the City's attempts to address the public health and safety concerns associated with the build-up of illegally dumped materials and debris, it does not have the capacity to devote enough resources to effectively manage the persistent conditions on Harrison Street. This problem has grown to such an extent that two-way traffic on Harrison Street is compromised. In addition to the health and safety impacts to those living on the street, this has significantly affected the businesses, non-profit organizations and artists along the Harrison Corridor and surrounding areas. Supporting the work of the Urban Compassion Project will help strengthen a partnership with this organization that could assist with improving other areas throughout the City in the future.

### **FISCAL IMPACTS**

No General Fund impact. \$1,000 is available from the budget discretionary accounts of Councilmember Kesarwani, O'Keefe, and Mayor Ishii and \$800 from Councilmember Lunaparra's office budget discretionary account.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Clearing Harrison and surrounding streets of trash and debris alleviates detrimental health and safety impacts on encampment residents, businesses, and non-profit employees and prevents unsafe run-off from entering Codornices Creek during the rainy season.

### **CONTACT PERSON**

Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani, District 1

(510) 981-7110

### **ATTACHMENT**

- 1) Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.  
URBAN COMPASSION PROJECT HARRISON CORRIDOR CLEANUP

WHEREAS, The Urban Compassion Project is a local nonprofit entity that tackles the intertwined issues of homelessness, public health, and environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, The Urban Compassion Project operates using a multifaceted approach that cleans and beautifies neighborhoods while fostering community cohesion and supporting individuals in their journey towards stability; and

WHEREAS, The Urban Compassion Project has been sponsoring weekly cleanups in Oakland and other cities engaging thousands of volunteers over time, both housed and unhoused, while removing over 2,400 tons of trash; and

WHEREAS, The Urban Compassion Project has already engaged with the unhoused residents living along the Harrison Street corridor who are eager to have assistance with cleaning the area; and

WHEREAS, The Urban Compassion Project has already cleaned the Harrison Street corridor on November 8, 2025 bringing 60 volunteer participants to assist in removing 24,000 pounds of trash and debris; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley would like to support and continue partnering with this organization; and

WHEREAS, the provision of their services has fulfilled the municipal public purpose of providing outreach to very low-income vulnerable residents while simultaneously improving the public health and safety of the Harrison Street corridor.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their Council Office Budgets up to \$1,000 per office shall be granted to the Urban Compassion Project to cover the costs associated with the Harrison Street Cleanup event.

